


WBWG

NAVIGATION



Western Bat Species

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Mollosidae, or free-tailed bats, belong to the order Chiroptera. The family's common name is derived from a length of "free" tail, projecting beyond the end of the uropatagium – the membrane that connects the base of the tail to the hind legs. The tail is usually best seen when resting. A special ring of cartilage slides up or down the tail vertebrae by muscular action to stretch or retract the tail membrane. This gives many species a degree of fine tuning in their flight maneuvers to rival their day-flying ecological equivalents, such as swifts, swallows, and martins. As a result, these animals include the fastest-flying of all bat species among their number.

Eumops perotis | greater mastiff bat

Eumops underwoodii | Underwood's mastiff bat

Nyctinomops femorosaccus | pocketed free-tailed bat

Nyctinomops macrotis | big free-tailed bat

Tadarida brasiliensis | Mexican free-tailed bat

Mormoopidae, contains bats known generally as mustached bats, ghost-faced bats, and naked-backed bats. They are found in the Americas from the southwestern United States to southeastern Brazil. They are distinguished by the presence of a leaf-like projection from their lips, instead of the nose-leaf found in many other bat species. In some species, the wing membranes join over the animal's back, making it appear hairless. The tail projects only a short distance beyond the membrane that stretches between the hind legs.

Mormoops megalophylla | ghost-faced bat

Phylostomidae (New World leaf-nosed bats) represents one of the most morphologically diverse families, comprising approximately 160 species of more than 55 genera. These extraordinary bats, whose scientific and common names derive from their 'leaf-shaped' noses, occur throughout Central and South America, from Mexico to northern Argentina.

Choeronycteris mexicana | Mexican long-tongued bat

Leptonycteris curasoae | lesser long-nosed bat

Leptonycteris nivalis | Mexican long-nosed bat

Macrotis californicus | California leaf-nosed bat

Vespertilionidae, the taxonomic family of “evening bats,” “vesper bats,” or “common bats” compose the largest family within the order Chiroptera, containing approximately 407 species of 48 genera. As the second largest mammalian family, vespertilionids occur on every continent except Antarctica. The majority of these species possess a simple face and relatively small eyes, are insectivores and rely primarily on echolocation.

Antrozous pallidus | pallid bat

Corynorhinus townsendii | Townsend's big-eared bat

Eptesicus fuscus | big brown bat

Euderma maculatum | spotted bat

Idionycteris phyllotis | Allen's big-eared bat

Lasionycteris noctivagans | silver-haired bat

Lasiurus blossevillei | western red bat

Lasiurus cinereus | hoary bat

Lasiurus xanthinus | western yellow bat

Lasiurus ega | southern yellow bat

Myotis auriculus | southwestern myotis

Myotis californicus | California myotis

Myotis ciliolabrum | western small-footed myotis

Myotis evotis | long-eared myotis

Myotis keenii | Keen's myotis

Myotis lucifugus | little brown myotis

Myotis occultus | Arizona myotis

Myotis septentrionalis | northern myotis

Myotis thysanodes | fringed myotis

Myotis velifer | cave myotis

Myotis volans | long-legged myotis

Distribution

Myotis volans, a member of the Family Vespertilionidae, ranges across western North America from southeastern Alaska, British Columbia and Alberta in Canada to Baja California and central Mexico. It occurs throughout the western United States from the Pacific coast to the Great Plains and central Texas.



Status

Global Rank – G5. State Ranks: AZ – S3; CA – S5; CO – S5; ID – S3; MT – S4; NM – S5; NV – S?; OR – S3; TX – S4; UT – S3S4; WA – S3; WY – S4; AL – S2; BC – S4S5. Former category 2 candidate species. Take regulated by permit in various states. Proposed as a Species of Special Concern in California.

Identifying Characteristics and Life History

Myotis volans is recognized by its short rounded ears, small hindfeet, long tibia, distinctly keeled calcar, and long, dense fur on the underside of the wing membrane that extends from the body to a line joining the elbow and the knees. Although some variation in color exists, it is typically dark brown. It is a bat primarily of coniferous forests, but also occurs seasonally in riparian and desert habitats. It is a relatively poor urine concentrator. *M. volans* uses abandoned buildings, cracks in the ground, cliff crevices, exfoliating tree bark, and hollows within snags as summer day roosts; caves and mine tunnels as hibernacula. It is active throughout the night, but peak activity is 3-4 hours after sunset. It is a rapid, direct flier, often traveling some distance while foraging, and feeds in and around the forest canopy, primarily on moths and other soft-bodied insects. Individuals copulate in autumn, with females storing the sperm overwinter, ovulating in the spring, and giving birth from May through August. Individuals have lived a minimum of 21 years.

Threats

May be affected by closure of abandoned mines without adequate surveys and certain forest-management practices. Residues of DDT and its metabolites have been found in this species in Oregon.

Gaps in Knowledge

No information known on population trends and use and acceptance of bat gates. More information is needed on roosting and foraging requirements.



Selected Literature

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Account by M. A. Bogan, E. W. Valdez, and K.W. Navo

Myotis yumanensis | Yuma myotis

Parastrellus hesperus | western pipistrelle

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